Opening of new Division in Western Railway

1126. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals have been received for opening of new Division in Western Railway;

(b) how many of them have been accepted by Government; and

(c) what is the criteria adopted in acceptance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Since January 1990, 6 proposals for the opening of two new Divisions at Gandhidham and Ahmedabad on Western Railway have been received.

(b) None.

(c) New Railway Divisions are set-up taking into consideration the size, workload, growth and pattern of traffic and other operational requirements of the existing divisions consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

Allotment of Wheat to Gujarat

1127. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have requested for increased allotment of wheat;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allot at least one lakh tons of wheat every month to Gujarat; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow more wheat to be sold in open market to bring down the prices of wheat which has gone up in last one or two months?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allocations of wheat from Central Pool for Public Distribution System to various States/UTs, including Gujarat, are made on a month to month basis taking into account stock position in the Central Pool, relative needs of States/UTs, offtake trend, market availability and other related factors. The Government of Gujarat has been allotted 95,000 tonnes of wheat from the Central Pool for Public Distribution System for each of the months of February 1991 and March 1991 as against 75,000 tonnes for January, 1991

(c) Food Corporation of India have been authorised to sell a total quantity of 6 lakh tonnes of wheat in March, 1991 as against 5 lakh tonnes in January, 1991 in the open market. The quantity earmarked for Gujarat has also been increased from 17,000 tonnes in January, 1991 to 25,000 tonnes in March, 1991.

Decrease in rail transport

1128. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cut in diesel supplies has resulted in reducing the movement of rail transport leading to rise in prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take for the free movement of rail transport?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Movement of freight by rail per se has not suffered as no cut has been enforced in the supplies of diesel oil to Indian Railways for freight operation.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Railways system with the assistance of World Bank

1129. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the railway system during the next few years with World Bank assistance;